

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument having parts that are moved relative to each other while in surface contact with each other, and also having a lubricating material for lubrication of said parts, at least one of said parts being coated over at least part of its surface (52, 53) with a lubricating substance, said lubricating substance being designed such that it is transferred from the part carrying said coating to ~~the~~an uncoated part when said parts are in motion and the lubricating substance and a mating surface (57) of the uncoated part (54) are such that the lubricating substance adheres to the mating surface of the uncoated part (54) and said lubricating substance in the coating (53, 44) is a solid lubricating substance, said coating comprising a metal-doped, diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer.

32. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, including a plurality of groups of parts that are moved relative to each other and require lubrication and for all groups of parts that are moved relative to each other, at least one of the parts has a coating capable of transferring lubricating substance, ~~while different groups may optionally have different coatings.~~

33. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein the composition of said coating (52a, 52b, 53, 42,

43, 44) varies from its side adjacent the component to be coated toward its exposed surface.

34. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in

claim 31, wherein the proportion of lubricating substance on ~~the an~~ exposed surface of said coating (55) is greater than on ~~the a~~ side adjacent the component to be coated.

35. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said coating comprises at least one carrier layer (52a, 42) attached to the surface of the coated part and at least one layer of lubricating substance (53, 43, 44).

36. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said lubricating substance in said coating (53, 44) has embedded components which assume a liquid state during operation.

37. (Cancel)

38. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said coating comprises a polymer layer consisting of one or more sublayers (42, 43, 44).

39. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim ~~31 35~~, wherein said carrier layer (42, 52a) is metallic.

40. (Currently Amended) A dental had instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein in the ~~overall~~-coating there are present further functional layers (52a, 52b, 42, 43), of which one is pressure-resistant.

41. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein one or more layers of said coating have internal attenuation means.

42. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument has defined in claim 31, wherein the electrical resistance of said coating varies with wear.

43. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein one of a plurality of layers has an electrically insulating effect.

44. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument has defined in claim 31, wherein said coating differs optically from the carrier material (51, 41).

45. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 44, wherein the optical properties of said coating change with wear.

46. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said coating reduces the surface hardness or leaves it unchanged.

47. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein at least one component of an antifriction bearing is provided with asaid coating-as-defined.

48. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein at least one component of a plain bearing is provided with a said coating as defined.

49. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein for power transmission elements, at least one sliding component and/or touching component and/or contacting component is provided with a said coating as defined.

50. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein the components that are moved relative to each other provide coupling or gear-shift functions.

51. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein an additional lubricant is provided exclusively on those surfaces of parts which contact each other.

52. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 51, wherein said additional lubricant exhibits high adhesion and cohesion forces.

53. (Previously Presented). A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 51, wherein a second non-bonded lubricant is present.

54. (Currently Amended) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 1 31, wherein the lubricating substance is in the form of a support for the lubricant or lubricants.

55. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said coating and/or said other lubricants are sterilizable.

56. (Cancel)

57. (Previously Presented) A dental hand instrument as defined in claim 31, wherein said lubricating substance comprises a plurality of layers.